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SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS

Enhancing, reactivation and establishment of United Nations information centres

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 13 of its resolution 48/44 B of 10 December 1993, the General Assembly again called upon the Secretary-General to implement fully and expeditiously the recommendation contained in paragraph 10 of its resolution 47/73 B of 14 December 1992 regarding the establishment of a United Nations information centre at Sana'a; the reactivation of the United Nations information centre at Tehran; and the enhancement of the information centres at Bujumbura, Dar es Salaam and Dhaka; and to submit the implementation report to the Committee on Information at its sixteenth substantive session.

2. In paragraph 10 of its resolution 47/73 B of 14 December 1992, the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to implement fully its recommendations contained in resolution 46/73 B of 11 December 1991, including paragraphs 1 (l) and (m).

3. In paragraphs 1 (l) and (m) of its resolution 46/73 B, the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations of the Committee on Information that the Department of Public Information provide the necessary professionals and equipment where necessary to enhance the information centres at Tehran, Dar es Salaam, Dhaka and Bujumbura; that the Assembly consider approval of the establishment of a new United Nations information centre at Sana'a.

4. The present report outlines the action taken by the Department of Public Information to implement those recommendations.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRE AT SANA'A

5. The Department of Public Information has already appointed a Professional-level Information Officer to head the United Nations information centre which is expected to be established at Sana'a by the end of April. Other appropriate measures to make the centre operational within the limits of existing budgetary resources will be taken after the head of the information centre has assumed functions.

6. In addition, the Department is continuing its consultations with the Government of Yemen regarding the availability of the rent-free office premises earmarked for the United Nations information centre at Sana'a.

III. REACTIVATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRE AT TEHRAN

7. The United Nations information centre at Tehran continues to be operational with the services of two locally recruited staff members: an Information Assistant and a Reference Assistant. The centre shares common premises with the field office of the United Nations Development Programme. Its operations have been computerized and the staff have received the necessary training.

8. The Department has initiated action to appoint a Professional-level Information Officer to head the United Nations information centre at Tehran. That internationally recruited staff member is expected to assume functions at the beginning of April 1994. Other appropriate measures will be taken after the head of the information centre has assumed functions. Meanwhile, consultations with the relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran continue.

IV. ENHANCEMENT OF UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRES AT BUJUMBURA, DAR ES SALAAM AND DHAKA

9. The information centres at Bujumbura, Dar es Salaam and Dhaka continue to carry out their functions in an effective manner in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 (l) of General Assembly resolution 46/73 B, in which it was recommended that the Department of Public Information provide the necessary professionals and equipment to enhance those three information centres.

10. The Department has provided computers and other necessary equipment. All available local-level posts have been filled. In the information centre at Dhaka, the Department undertook to reallocate the functions of the existing posts so that the centre now has an Information Assistant and a Reference Assistant.

11. In addition, following the decision of the General Assembly to establish posts at the National Officer level, it is anticipated that in the course of 1994, the posts of Information Assistants at the centres at Bujumbura and Dhaka and their incumbents will be upgraded to the level of National Information

Officer. It should be noted that the United Nations information centre at Dar es Salaam already has a National Information Officer. In addition, appropriate staff at all three information centres have been trained in computer applications.

V. CONCLUSION

12. The Department of Public Information has taken all practical action to implement as fully as possible the provisions of General Assembly resolutions regarding the United Nations information centres at Sana'a, Tehran, Bujumbura, Dar es Salaam and Dhaka.